WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of accelerating wound healing, comprising applying to a wound an effective amount to accelerate wound healing of at least one peptide other than Angiotensin II, said peptide consisting essentially of at least three contiguous amino acids and having a sequence corresponding to a subsequence of groups R^1-R^8 in general formula I:

$R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6 - R^7 - R^8$ (SEQ ID NO:15), wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of Asp, Glu, Asn, Acpc, Ala, Me^2Gly, Pro, Bet, $Glu(NH_2)$, Gly, $Asp(NH_2)$ and Suc;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, Lys, Ala, Orn, Ser(Ac), Sar, D-Arg and D-Lys;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Leu, Ile, Gly, Pro, Aib, Acpc and Tyr;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Thr, Ser and azaTyr;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of Ile, Ala, Leu, Val and Gly;

R^6 is His or Arg;

R^7 is Pro or Ala; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of Phe, Phe(Br), Ile and Tyr,

excluding sequences wherein R^4 is an amino terminal Tyr group of the peptide.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in matrical or micellar solution.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in an amount of at least 0.1 ng per kg body weight in a suitable carrier or diluent.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the carrier or diluent is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose preparations, crystalloid preparations, viscoelastics, polyethylene glycols and polypropylene glycols.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in conjunction with a wound dressing.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^1 - R^2 - R^3$ in general formula I.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val (SEQ ID NO:11).

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 in general formula I.

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr (SEQ ID NO:10).

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5 in general formula I.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile (SEQ ID NO:9).

12. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6 in general formula I.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile - His (SEQ ID NO:8).

14. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^3 - R^4 - R^5 -R^6 - R^7 in general formula I.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro (SEQ ID NO:6).

16. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^2 - R^3 - R^4 -R^5 - R^6 - R^7 in general formula I.

17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro (SEQ ID NO:5).

18. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^3 - R^4 - R^5 -R^6 - R^7 - R^8 in general formula I.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro - Phe (SEQ ID NO:3).

20. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R^5 -R^6 - R^7 - R^8 in general formula I.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Ile - His - Pro - Phe (SEQ ID NO:7).

22. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises poly-Gly.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from Asp-Arg-Val-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly (SEQ ID NO:16) and Gly-Gly-Gly-Asp-Arg-Val (SEQ ID NO:17).

24. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises poly-Lys.

25. A method according to Claim 24, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Lys-Lys-Lys (SEQ ID NO:18) and Lys-Lys-Lys-Lys-Lys-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro (SEQ ID NO:19)

26. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises a D-amino acid.

27. A method according to Claim 26, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from D-Ala-Ile-His-Pro-Phe (SEQ ID NO:20); and Ile-His-Pro-Phe-D-Ala (SEQ ID NO:21)

28. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is PEGylated.

29. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the PEGylated peptide is selected from the peptides of SEQ ID NOS. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.